

Museum Learning Program

Year 3 Telecommunications – Talking to the World

Rationale

The Year 3 History program delivered at Wireless Hill Park gives the students an opportunity to learn about different modes of telecommunications. Wireless Hill has a long history of communication. Wireless Hill Station, or the Applecross Wireless Station as it was originally known was built in 1912 as part of a radio network which controlled Australia's external communications from 1912 to 1962. The Telecommunications - Talking to the World Program at Wireless Hill Park allows students to explore telecommunications *to investigate events, developments, issues and phenomena, both historical and contemporary.*

Students will be given the *opportunity to develop historical understanding through key concepts including **sources, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy and significance through Morse code and radios.** These concepts may be investigated within a particular historical context to facilitate an understanding of the past and to provide a focus for historical inquiries* while at Wireless Hill Park.

On the day, students will participate in a demonstration of Morse code and radios, learn about the significance of Morse code and radios in the history of telecommunications, with special reference to the significance radio to the Wireless Hill site. Students will interpret Morse code messages. Students will familiarize themselves with a range of radios, explore the historical importance of radio communications and create a timeline of radio technology. Students will explore the significance of Wireless Hill station in communicating with the world.

Links to the Australian Curriculum

Year 3 History Learning Program: Introduction to Telecommunication is directly linked to the Australian Curriculum:

Humanities and Social Sciences: History (Yr3)
Historical knowledge and understanding
Community and remembrance
ONE important example of change and ONE important example of continuity over time in the local community, region or state/territory; for example, in relation to the areas of transport, work, education, natural and built environments, entertainment, daily life (ACHHK061)

Humanities and Social Sciences Skills

Chronology, terms and concepts:

Use historical terms ([ACHHS066](#))

Analysis and use of sources:

Pose a range of questions about the past ([ACHHS067](#))

Cross curriculum priorities

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture

Asia, and Australia's engagement with Asia

Sustainability

General Capabilities

Literacy

Numeracy

ICT capability

Critical and creative thinking

Personal and social capability

Ethical understanding

Intercultural understanding

What needs to be done before the museum visit

The museum visit will be more powerful if students have a prior understanding of the purpose and functions of Morse code and the use of radios in the past.

You might also like to familiarise them with some of the terminology used on the day.

Vocabulary list

Morse code	wireless	code
heritage	primary source	secondary source
telecommunications	artefact	interpret

After your visit

After their visit to the Wireless Hill Museum the students can continue communicating in Morse code.

Suggested activity:

- Teachers may like to set up a treasure hunt in the playground with Morse code clues to the treasure.
- Write a script for a radio broadcast from Wireless Hill.
- Consider the uses of Wireless Hill and what types of broadcasts were sent.

Focus questions:

- Do you think radio is an important type of communication today? If not, what do you think has replaced it?
- Why are old radios significant, and what do they reveal about our past?
- What are the disadvantages of using Morse code?
- Radios were also a source of entertainment, how do you listen to music now?